



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)


TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 21, 2012

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution opposing SB 1758,
HB 5103, HB 7055 or similar
legislation that would amend the
School Readiness Act to reduce the
authority of the office of early
learning and potentially shift funding
priorities at the expense of early
childhood education

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime
Sponsor Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls

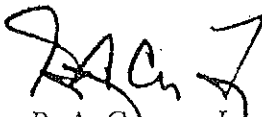


MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☒ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous____) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(1)
2-21-12

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION OPPOSING SB 1758, HB 5103, HB 7055 OR
SIMILAR LEGISLATION THAT WOULD AMEND THE
SCHOOL READINESS ACT TO REDUCE THE AUTHORITY
OF THE OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING AND
POTENTIALLY SHIFT FUNDING PRIORITIES AT THE
EXPENSE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the State of Florida's School Readiness Program is governed by Section
411.01 of the Florida Statutes ("School Readiness Act"); and

WHEREAS, this Program provides subsidies for early childhood education and child
care services to children of low-income families; children in protective services who are at risk
of abuse, neglect, or abandonment; and children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by the School Readiness Program help narrow
achievement gaps, ensure that children are prepared to succeed in K-12 schooling, and assist
low-income parents in their role as the child's first teacher; and

WHEREAS, these services provide long-lasting benefits to students that extend to the
community-at-large; and

WHEREAS, it crucial that comprehensive early childhood education and child care
services remain available to low-income families, children in protective services, and children
with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, bills have been filed for consideration during the 2012 session of the
Florida Legislature that seek to amend the act governing the School Readiness Program and
make significant changes that can drastically impact its effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, passage of these bills, SB 1758 by Senator Anitere Flores (R-Miami), HB 5103 by the House Pre-K-12 Appropriations Subcommittee and Representative Marti Coley (R-Marianna), HB 7055 by the Rulemaking & Regulation Subcommittee and Representative Matt Gaetz (R-Fort Walton Beach), HB 7085 by the House K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee and proposed committee bill (PCB) PKAS 12-02, BCAS 12-04 by the House Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee, KCOS 12-01, would reduce the authority of the Office of Early Learning and potentially shift funding priorities at the expense of early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to express its opposition to these bills and such similar legislation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to reject SB 1758, HB 5103, HB 7055 or similar legislation that would amend the School Readiness Act to reduce the authority of the Office of Early Learning and potentially shift funding priorities at the expense of early childhood education.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation, Representative Marti Coley and Representative Matt Gaetz.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issues identified in Section 1 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to amend the 2012 state legislative package to include this item.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Joe A. Martinez, Chairman | |
| Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman | |
| Bruno A. Barreiro | Lynda Bell |
| Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. | Jose "Pepe" Diaz |
| Sally A. Heyman | Barbara J. Jordan |
| Jean Monestime | Dennis C. Moss |
| Rebeca Sosa | Sen. Javier D. Souto |
| Xavier L. Suarez | |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of February, 2012. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes